

An Index of Leicestershire Lore

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Preface

Back in 2004 I wrote and published a book called *Leicestershire Legends Retold by Black Annis*. It's available as a free PDF: www.hoap.co.uk/leics_legends.pdf

As part of the preparation of that book I re-read every source I had for Leicestershire folklore. As many of these books were published without an index I typed out brief notes. Slightly confusingly they are in order of location. So effectively a gazetteer of local lore.

I have compiled this 'index' of Leicestershire lore and made it available as a free PDF just in case it is of interest or use to other researchers and authors. There are separate sections on 'lore' and on ghosts followed by a bibliography.

One of the key sources of information was four articles written by Paul Devereux in the mid-1970s. These were based on research by Andrew York who had been working in Leicester and spent his lunch breaks in the Record Office (at the time on New Walk) reading old copies of the *Leicester Mercury* and other local papers, and making notes about any accounts of ghosts and other anomalous phenomena. In the early 1990s Paul Devereux kindly lent me all the letters to him from Andy. For example, all the following were brought to my attention by the research of Andrew York:

Coalville Times 3rd June 1966 (ghost at Drum and Monkey, Thringstone)

Leicester Mercury 20th September 1968 (ghost of old lady in red coat)

Leicester Mercury 17th June 1972 (ghost at Freewheeler Club, Churchgate)

Leicester Mercury 23rd June 1972 (ghost at the Woodmans Stroke, Rothley)

Leicester Mercury 22nd January 1973 (exorcism of Britella factory, Frog Island)

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LEICESTERSHIRE LEGENDS



Leicestershire mummer's play (Swift 1954: 65–9)

Anstey standing stone (Devereux 1975: 3; ; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 18)

Ashby de la Zouch Tyler's monkey (Bell 1992: 7)

Ashby Folville haystrewing (Green 1985: 29; Billson 1985: 18; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 17)

Ashby Folville cross and duel

Aylestone hay taken as crow flies to Braunstone (Devereux and York 1975 [TFHOA pt2]: 6)

Barrow on Soar Devil seen by Sunday labourers (Green 1985: 8–9; Heywood 1934: 55–8; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 13)

Barwell meteorite 2/12/1965 (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt1]: 14)

Beeby tub (Green 1985:14–15)

Belgrave Bel legend (Bell 1992: 10–11; Green 1985:10; Palmer 2002: 26–7)

Belgrave 'Main Oak' and lost stone (Devereux 1975: 10)

Bilston gibbet (Bell 1992: 13–14)

Birstall black dog in Shag Dog Pit off B(l)ack Lane (part has survived as Kilby Avenue) (Palmer 2002: 221; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 11 [who cite Swift 1954 as their source])

Bottesford witches (Bell 1992: 11–13; Green 1971: 36–9; Pipe 1991: 104–7; Heywood 1934: 59–63; Palmer 2002: 240–1)

Bottesford Star Stone on county boundary (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 17–18)

Bradgate Park Wishing Stone (Devereux 1975: 3)

Bradgate Park other standing stones (Devereux 1975: 4)

Bradgate Park 'tadpole shaped lights' associated with earthquake 11/2/1957 (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt1]: 18)

Braunstone haystrewing (Green 1985: 28–9; Billson 1985: 18)

Breedon churchmoving legend (Billson 1985: 10–11)

Buckminster Anomalous noises in sky 1720s (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 13)

Charnwood Forest last wolf (Heywood 1934: 38–41)

Charnwood Forest the seven Develins (Heywood 1934: 42–5)

Coalville Warren Hills stones (Devereux 1975: 4–9; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 18)

Coleorton Pondering Stone at Hall (Pipe 1991: 40–4)

Copt Oak (Devereux and York 1975 [TFHOA pt2]: 6)

Croft 1124 hangings (Bell 1992: 28–9; Green 1985: 19)

Croft Croft Hill as focus of UFO activity (Devereux 1975: 11–12; Devereux 1982: 173–4; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt1]: 6–8)

Danehills Black Annis (Bell 1992: 29–31; Green 1971: 28–9; Billson 1985: 7–8; Heyrick 1797; **Swift 1954:90**; Palmer 2002: 29–30; **247–9**; Devereux and York 1975 [TFHOA pt2]: 6; Hutton's *Triumph* p275)

Earl Shilton witch hunt (Green 1971: 35)

Edmondthorpe witch and cleaver (Bell 1992: 32–3; Green 1971: 18–19; Pipe 1991: 111–15; Palmer 2002: 242)

Elmesthorpe belief in witches in 1811 (Palmer 2002: 245)

Exton death of Catherine Noel (Bell 1992: 34–6)

Fleckney Craft Corner Witches' Seat (Bell 1992: 36–7; Green 1971: 35; (Palmer 2002: 246)

Fleckney church moving (Palmer 2002: 37)

Glenfield haystrewing (Green 1985: 29; Billson 1985: 18)

Great Glen lynching of 'witch' (Green 1971: 33; Palmer 2002: 244)

Griffydam Griffin's Well (Bell 1992: 38; Green 1985:21–22; Pipe 1991: 69–73; Swift 1954: 69–89)

Grimston Stones ('fell from sky') and stocks (Devereux 1975: 10; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 17)

Groby pike of Groby Pool (Bell 1992: 39–40; Green 1985: 12–13)

Hallaton Hare Pie and Bottle Kicking (Billson 1985: 8–10; Pipe 1991: 11–15)

Hathern Piper's Hole legend (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 13)

Hinckley death of Richard Smith in 1727 (Bell 1992: 42–4; Cutting 1982: 16; Green 1971: 17–18; Swift 1954:93)

Hinckley meteorites Oct and Dec 1766 and Oct 1769 (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt1]: 10). Anomalous noises in sky 1672 (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 13)

Holwell Mouth black dog (Bell 1992: 5–6)

Holywell Haw (Green 1971: 20–23; Green 1985: 5–7; Pipe 1991: 45–9; Heywood 1934: 22–6; Palmer 2002: 32)

Horninghold 'witch hunts' (Green 1971: 34–5; Palmer 2002: 243)

Hoton Two Sister's Well (Bell 1992: 44–5; Green 1985: 23; Heywood 1934: 7–11; Palmer 2002: 32–3)

Houghton on the Hill theft of church plate from Ingarsby Old Hall (Bell 1992: 45–6)

Humberstone Hoston (Bell 1992: 46–7; Green 1985: 26–7; Billson 1985: 12–16; Devereux 1975: 2; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 17)

Huncote Stone on boundary (Devereux 1975: 10)

Husbands Bosworth Priests Hole at Hall (Bell 1992: 47–8)

Kibworth church moving legend (Billson 1985: 11)

Langham haystrewing (Green 1985: 30; Pipe 1991: 16–19)

Leicester Leir; Llyr; Bran (Bell 1992: 49–51; Billson 1994: 6–7; Pipe 1991: 108–10)

Leicester King Richard III (Green 1971: 24–7; Swift 1954: 89–92; Palmer 2002: 13–17)

Leicester witch trials (Green 1971: 32–3; Palmer 2002: 239; 241–2)

Leicester Shrovetide 'throwing at cocks' in The Newark (Billson 1985: 10)

Leicester Whipping Toms, Shrove Tuesday, The Newark (Billson 1985: 17; Devereux and York 1975 [TFHOA pt2]: 6); Palmer p143; 165; 254

Leicester Riding of the George (Devereux and York 1975 [TFHOA pt2]: 5)

Leicester St John's Stone (Palmer 1985: 16; Devereux 1975: 3; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 17)

Leicester Daniel Lambert (Pipe 1991: 85–7; Palmer 2002: 78–80)

Leicester Forest black dog (Palmer 2002: 221)

Long Clawson Piper's Hole legend (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 13)

Loughborough Garendon Pool (Bell 1992: 57–8; Green 1971: 30; Heywood 1934: 46–50)

Loughborough anomalous lights in sky Aug 1892 (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt1]: 14)

Lubenham Papillon Hall (Bell 1992: 58–63; Pipe 1991: 121–3; Drayton 1992; Stevens-Bassett 19****; Lloyd 1977)

Lutterworth Wycliffe's bones (Bell 1992: 63–4; Green 1985: 21; Pipe 1991: 116–9; Palmer 2002: 34–5)

Market Bosworth Battle of Bosworth (Pipe 1991: 81–3) [cf. Leics ghosts.doc]

Markfield meteorites seen in 1649 (Palmer 2002: 221; Devereux 1982: 170–1; Devereux and York 1975 [TFHOA pt2]: 11; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt1]: 8)

Markfield Altar Stone (Devereux 1975: 3; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 18)

Melton Mowbray Civil War battle at Ankle Hill (Bell 1992: 82)

Nanpantan Altar stone on Long Buck Hill (Devereux 1975: 2)

Nanpantan turf crosses (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 17)

Narborough black dog at St John's (Palmer 2002: 221)

Oaks in Charnwood Hanging Stone (Devereux 1975: 2; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 15); Altar Stone

Queniborough Moody Bush Stone (Devereux 1975: 4; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 17)

Ratby procession from The Wethers (Billson 1985: 18; Devereux and York 1975 [TFHOA pt2]: 5)

Ryhall Stibbaswell (Palmer 2002: 35–6)

Saltby anomalous 'meteor' 'occasionally observed' in C18 (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt1]: 9)

Shepshed 'aurorae' 1715–24 (Devereux 1982: 172; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt1]: 8–9)

Shepshed earthquake 18/7/1727 (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt1]: 9); severe thunderstorms (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt1]: 10)

Shepshed inexplicable great fire 30/6/1753 (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 13)

Shepshed Reynstones (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 18)

Smeeton Westerby witches shapeshifting into hare and bitten by dog (Palmer 2002)

Snelston belief in witches (Palmer 2002: 245)

Stoney Stanton Black dog seen when walking to Sapcote in C17 (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 11 citing Nichols). Close by is Mill Hill, considered to be 'fairy ground' (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 11).

Syston Moody Bush Stone (Green 1985: 27; Palmer 2002: 29)

Twyford witch hunt 1775 (Palmer 2002: 244–5)

Twyford belief in witches (Palmer 2002: 245)

Wigston Magna witch hunt Palmer 2002: 243–4)

Wistow legend of St Wistan (Bell 1992: 85–6; Green 1971: 5–7)

Oakham Our Lady's Well (Bell 1992: 86–7)

Oakham Oakham castle horseshoes (Bell 1992: 87–8)

Oakham Jeffrey Hudson (dwarf) (Pipe 1991: 55–8; Palmer 2002: 80–2)

Shepshed Hangman's Stone (Bell 1992: 91–3; Green 1985: 24–6; Heywood 1934: 27–31; Devereux 1975: 3; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 18)

South Croxton witches (Palmer 2002: 246)

Staunton Harold visions of Dr Kirkland (Bell 1992: 93–5; Draycott *et al* n.d.: 20–1)

Staunton Harold murder by Earl Ferrers (Pipe 1991: 33–9)

Stretton Ram Jam Inn (Bell 1992: 97–8; Green 1985: 31–2)

Tilton on the Hill Robin a Tiptoe (Bell 1992: 109; Green 1985: 20)

Tilton on the Hill witches (Bell 1992: 109–10; Palmer 246)

Twyford witch who knew what everyone was doing (Palmer 2002: 245–6)

Twyford male witch feared by all (Palmer 2002: 246)

Ulverscroft Agnes Litherland (Green 1985: 5–7; Pipe 1991: 45–9; Heywood 1934: 32–7)

Whitwick Swanimote Rock (Devereux 1975: 10; Devereux and York 1975 [TFHOA pt2]: 6)

Wigston Davenport (highwayman) (Green 1971: 8–10; Pipe 1991: 20–25)

Wigston witch hunt (Green 1971: 35)

Wing Amelia Woodcock 'white witch' (Pipe 1991: 88–91)

Wing hedging the cuckoo in (Palmer 2002: 25)

Woodhouse Beaumanor Hanging Stone (Devereux 1975: 2–3)

Wymeswold witch stone (Palmer 2002: 245)

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LEICESTERSHIRE GHOST STORIES



Location unknown

A ghostly army of soldiers was seen in Leicestershire in 1707.

Source: [Andy York] *Ghost Parade* Stuart Martin.

The ghost of a huntsman in full riding outfit rode along an unnamed Leicestershire lane at about 7 o'clock in the evening. The huntsman looked so real that many people, not realising he was a ghost, would say good evening to him. After a farmer found some bones and a riding whip in a hollow tree near the lane the rider was seen no more. The whip and some odd belongings which were with the bones were identified as belonging to the squire's son, who had gone missing some time before.

Source: [Andy York] Mr Woods, 95 Waterworks Road, Coalville.

Ghost of man in house 'a village a few miles east of Leicester' (Palmer 2002: 234)

Asfordby

The Georgian Rectory is haunted by a poltergeist.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 8th August 1969; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 12.

Ashby de la Zouch

Strange noises and the rattling of chains are said to be heard in the area of the castle.

Source: [Andy York] Mr Alfred Mills, founder secretary of the South Staffs Metaphysical Society, to the compilers of the Coalville Tech[nical College] report, loaned by *Coalville Times*.

Ashby de la Zouch

In Market Street, in the shop that is now Webster's fish and chip shop, and was originally a candlemakers, there is supposed to be a ghost. Chains have been heard rattling, doors banging.

Source: [Andy York] Anthony Shenton to Andrew York 24th December 1967.

Ashby de la Zouch

A road near Ashby was reputed to be haunted. A man riding along this road one night looked by his side and was scared to see, striding beside him, a tall figure shrouded in a white garment.

Source: [Andy York] letter to Andrew York 27th October 1969 [from unknown correspondent].

Ashby de la Zouch sounds of Civil War skirmish at Corkscrew Lane (Bell 1992: 6–7; Draycott *et al* n.d.: 12)

Ashby de la Zouch ghosts at castle (Draycott *et al* n.d.: 16)

Ashby de la Zouch 'Lady Betty Hastings' Vision' (Palmer 2002: 229–30)

Ayston ghost at Hall (Bell 1992: 8–9)

Bardon

The ghost of 'Old Bill' is seen on the road near Bardon cemetery, which is near Bardon island on the A50.

Source: [Andy York] David Arnall to Andrew York, 4th January 1968.

Barrow on Soar

A headless figure is said to periodically appear on the Quorn to Barrow footpath.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 10th January 1969; Palmer 2002: 228; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 12)

Barrow on Soar footsteps at former Bishop Blaise Inn in 1984 (Palmer 2002: 223)

Barton in the Beans Simon's ghost (Draycott *et al* n.d.: 5)

Belgrave Hall 'Oak leaf' on video camera. No previous history of ghosts at Hall according to Joan Shaw.

Belvoir Civil War ghost; see early *Mercian Mysteries*

Birstall

The ghost at the ancient Plough Inn, Front Street, Birstall, besides being very noisy, often takes to moving the barrels all over the place.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* [undated reference in Andrew York's notes]; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 12.

Blaby

The Saxon burial ground is supposed to be haunted.

Source: [Andy York] from an [unidentified] associate.

Blaby Bakers Arms haunted by noisy ghost (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 12)

Bottesford ghost of woman who had just died in Leicester Royal Infirmary. *Leicester Chronicle* 1874; Palmer 2002: 230

Bottesford ghostly WWII bomber (Palmer 2002: 238)

??? Boundary

A man drawing water from a well or pump looked up and saw himself. He died a couple of days later.

Source: [Andy York] Jennifer Illsley, from a girl. Reported to Andrew York, November 1968.

Bradgate Park

Prior to the following series of notes on the Park I recently went out there (me, Andrew) and tracked down the keeper and tried to chat about the ghost. He was obviously disturbed by the subject and told me not to poke my nose into that, so ...

David Shelton's English master at school, Mr Ashton, last known living in Johnson Road, Birstall, had a relative who saw the ghost of Lady Jane Grey in Bradgate Park.

Source: [Andy York] letter 9th September 1969.

At 11p.m. on Christmas Eve, Lady Jane Grey is said to appear on Park Drive. She comes in state, riding from the end of the park in a lumbering open coach, drawn by four black headless horses. Then she appears again nine days later (2nd January) (presumably because she was the nine days' queen) yet again with her coach and horses and 11p.m.. This time, however, instead of passing along the drive and disappearing near the church, she stops and dismounts (she is dumpy, little and wears Tudor garb), walks toward the chapel in the ruins, gives a long drawn howl and disappears.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Illustrated Chronicle* 2nd January 1926.

Janet Bord notes that the description given of the ghost in this piece does not tally at all with what we know of Lady Jane Grey.

Lady Jane Grey, driving in a coach drawn by four horses is to be seen on New Year's Eve.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicestershire and Rutland lore* S. Jackson Coleman, 1955.

Lady Jane Grey appears on Christmas Eve and the coach is drawn by five horses.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Illustrated Chronicle* 27th March 1926.

[FIVE horses??]

Lady Jane Grey appears on Christmas Eve in a black coach drawn by four horses. They career madly down the drive and disappear into the ruins of her home. All the time she holds her head on her knee.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mail* 10th July 1930.

Bradgate Park ghost of Lady Jane Grey (Bell 1992: 15–16; Cutting 1982: 26; Palmer 2002: 17–18; 227)

Braunstone ghost at junior school (Bell 1992: 17–20)

Braunstone ghost of legs of man (!) at GEC factory (Bell 1992: 20–22)

Brooksby ghostly coach at Hall (Bell 1992: 22–4; Cutting 1982: 19–20; Palmer 2002: 227)

Brooksby ghosts on road (Cutting 1982: 21; Palmer 2002: 227)

Brooksby Sir George Villiers (Palmer 2002: 228–9)

Broughton Astley - grey lady (Bell 1992: 24–5)

Burbage

The pit at the foot of Lash Hill (on the footpath to the village) is said to be haunted by the spirit of a child who was beaten to death there.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mail* 3rd July 1930

Burleigh

Tradition states that Burleigh Hall was haunted by a weird and fearsome ghost which delighted in regular visits during which it made the house spin round and round, to the great terror of the residents. One night, when there was a particularly violent storm, the ghost gave an especially harsh word of command, and the house was transported bodily to its present position, from the summit of the neighbouring hill. The ghost has never since returned.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 7th September 1965; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 12.

Burton Lazars white horse of Leesthorpe Hill (Bell 1992: 48–9)

Bushby

Bushby Hall is haunted by a poltergeist. When some workmen were at the Hall to do a job they claimed to have seen six doors, with no apparent cause, all slam shut at once, and one workman claimed to have been knocked downstairs by the ghost.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 10th January 1969.

Cadeby sound of Bosworth battle (Bell 1992: 25–7)

Caldecott ghostly sound of hooves at Galley Hill towards Uppingham (Palmer 2002: 226)

Castle Donington

At the church at 11 p.m. a figure goes across the top of the tower.

Source: [Andy York] Jennifer Illsley, from some girls. Reported to Andrew York, November 1968.

Along the drive towards the Hall, off Park lane, a man saw a young girl coming from the direction of the Hall. She asked him the way. He turned round after she had left him and she had disappeared. Fairly late at night.

Source: [Andy York] Jennifer Illsley, from a girl. Reported to Andrew York, November 1968.

In the Hall park there used to be a motor racing track. If one stands under the Chain Bridge one can hear all the cars that crashed. Several people have experienced this recently, including girls out riding.

Source: [Andy York] Jennifer Illsley, from a girl. Reported to Andrew York, November 1968.

Donington race track has now been reopened.

Church Langton doppelganger [ghost seen a week before death of person] (Bell 1992: 27-8)

Coalville Coalville Library (Draycott *et al* n.d.: 1)

Coalville ghost at 92 London Road (Draycott *et al* n.d.: 8)

Coalville ghost at Newbridge youth club (Draycott *et al* n.d.: 18)

At Newbridge School a pupil is said to have thrown himself from the balcony in the school hall and his ghost is said to haunt the school.

Source: [Andy York] *Coalville Times* 18th March 1966

Coalville

In 1923–4 a nocturnal rambler, with no affinity to any known four-footed beast was seen and said to be a fearsome thing.

Source: [Andy York] *Illustrated Leicester Chronicle* 3rd August 1929

Coalville In January 195?/6? Mrs Ellen Latimer of Avenue Road, Coalville, the library cleaner in the old Coalville Library, Hotel Street, heard the library typewriter keys moving but found that nobody was using the machine. Also said to move books on shelves. Source: [Andy York] Draycott *et al* n.d.

Coalville 'There was one time in my life when I really encountered fear. I would be about eight years old. We were living at 92 London Road, Coalville. It was one of the last nights we were sleeping in that house, because we were emigrating to America. I went to bed about 8 o'clock. It was a beautiful night and I looked out of the window into the darkness. My bedroom was the one at the back of the house. It was really gigantic for someone of my size. I had a double bed in the middle of the room, the door was to my left and the windows to my right. I awoke at about 2 o'clock in the morning facing the window looking at the moon (it was full) and I had a dreadful feeling that someone else was in the room. There was a deadly chill in the atmosphere, I could smell something evil. I felt that whatever it was, was behind me. I was so scared that I couldn't turn over but literally forced myself over, very slowly. After fifteen hair-raising minutes I managed to turnover. Opening my eyes I saw the most horrible thing in my life. It was a human being dressed in pure white robes which shone in the darkness and it completely lit the room up. I was so scared I couldn't speak, I just dashed for the light switch and switched it on, and the ghost, as I call it, just turned around and vanished into the wall.'

Source: [Andy York] Verbatim report by Steven Slim, 81 Oxford Street, Coalville, quoted in Draycott *et al* n.d.

Coalville Somewhere in the vicinity of Coalville a young motor cyclist gave a lift to a girl on a lonely road and took his pillion passenger in the direction of the address she had given him. However, during the journey he discovered she was no longer on the machine. Afraid that the girl had fallen off, he rode back along the road, but could find no trace of her.

Shaken, he went to the address the missing girl had supplied and was amazed to hear from the family living there that their daughter, who fitted the description he gave, had died, exactly one year before.

Source: [Andy York] Draycott *et al* n.d.

Coleorton

The Gables at Coleorton is said to be haunted.

Source: [Andy York] Draycott *et al* n.d.

Coleorton Mrs Moon, laboratory assistant at Coalville Tech, who lives in Coleorton, saw a wraith-like figure float over a wall when she was about ten years old.

Source: [Andy York] Draycott *et al* n.d.

Coleorton Corkscrew Lane is said to be haunted by the ghosts of soldiers, Commonwealth men who fell during the attacks made on the Royalists at Ashby. Up to a couple of generations ago, Coleorton people were afraid to travel along the lane after dark.

Source: [Andy York] *Coalville Times* 5th April 1968.

An old resident of Ashby said that just off Corkscrew Lane there is a copse and, as a child, she was frightened to enter for fear of the ghosts of Commonwealth men who fell in attacks on Ashby. The soldiers are believed to be buried in the copse and it is said that the clashing of ghostly armour has been heard.

Source: Draycott *et al* n.d.

Dame Margaret was supposed to haunt the Hall, walking the corridors and haunting the rooms and grounds, during the Ides of March. Rattling of chains also heard, first in the house and then in the garden.

Source: [Andy York] *Coalville Times* 5th April 1968.

Coleorton ghost at hall (Draycott *et al* n.d.: 15–17)

Coleorton The present vicar of Ashby Folville told us that Coleorton Rectory was haunted, he lived there for a while.

One night while his daughter was in bed she awoke to find an old woman leaning over the bed. The old woman was smiling. The daughter said 'Hello' (would you believe it!) and then the old woman faded into a corner of the room and vanished. The room then felt very cold.

The main form that the haunting took was a noisy bunch of young girls. They would chatter loudly and run about noisily. They became part of the family according to the rector's wife. When they were noisy she would tell them to be quiet and they would be quiet. She apparently treated them like normal kids often, telling them off when they were too noisy. They would address all members of the family by name.

There were other manifestations. One night all the housebells rang inexplicably. The rector and his son investigated, they admitted there was a very chill feel to the house and knowing it was another prank of whatever haunted the place. They also admitted being rather scared if I remember rightly.

They also mentioned voices came from the speakers of their stereo, or from around them, while it was switched off. The voices were unintelligible, a low mumbling, but it was obviously not just noise, the voices were saying words, speaking in some intelligent form, but they could not make the words out.

They also mentioned that a deserted farmhouse, three fields back from the main road through Ashby Folville was haunted. They did not give the place a specific name and I cannot locate it on the map.

Source: [Andy York] Vicar of Ashby Folville directly to Andrew York [no date, c.1970-5]. (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 12)

Cosby

Many years ago, during this century, Ron Sutton and his old father were at one night in their old farmhouse. The door opened and footsteps were heard coming, with measured tread, across the floor. Nothing was seen.

Source: [Andy York] Jennifer Annandale from her father verbally to Andrew York, 24th September 1968.

Cossington ghost of Poll Peg on stile towards Sileby (Palmer 2002: 226)

Cotes Joan Shaw has details

Desford

The Old White Cottage, Newbold Lane, is said to be haunted.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Advertiser* 26th April 1968.

Donnington le Heath

The path leading from the railway bridge to Blackberry Lane is reputed to be haunted by a ghost.

Source: [Andy York] Draycott et al n.d.

Earl Shilton 1778 poltergeist (Palmer 2002: 221)

Eaton

An old woman, reputedly a witch, was buried beneath the floor of a house in Eaton, near Melton Mowbray. Wailing noises were heard by the occupier and her children.

Source: [Andy York] Article in *Leicester Chronicle* 10th January 1969

Edith Weston violent knockings in 1896 (Palmer 2002: 221)

Fleckney ghost of naked man towards Kilby (Bell 1992: 37; Palmer 2002: 225)

Fleckney white shape in High Street (Palmer 2002: 223)

Gibbet Hill crossroads

(where Rugby/Lutterworth road crosses Watling Street)

In this district there is a general belief that this spot is haunted by an apparition of a man who was murdered by a robber in the 17th century. The robber himself was said to have been hanged on this spot where the crime was committed.

In April 1949 some watchers who were waiting in a car expressly to see the ghost saw a ghostly white figure, dressed like a monk, at about 11 p.m.. The figure hurried across the road, and pulled aside its hoos, showing a bald head. Then it vanished.

There were also strange happenings reported from 1935, when passengers in buses from Rugby used to scream and say they had seen a queer white figure. This information came from a man who was a bus driver on the route.

Source: [Andy York] *Evening Standard* April 1949 cited in *Leicestershire and Rutland Lore* S. Jackson Coleman 1955.

Elliott O'Donnell, author of *Haunted waters*, relates in that book how his great-grandmother encountered a ghost.

She was driving with her father along [the Leicester to Lutterworth] road, it was getting dusk and they had come to gloomy hollow when the horse stopped and showed signs of fear. She got out to find what was the matter, when she heard a sound behind her. She turned and saw a tall, hooded figure, in black, come through the hedge and cross the road towards a tree. When it reached the tree it turned slowly and revealed a gleaming white face, which appeared to be entirely devoid of features. The figure vanished. They later found that the tree was reputed to have been haunted for many years.

[This spot was probably further north than Gallows Hill.]

Source: [Andy York] *Haunted waters* Elliott O'Donnell, p48/9.

Grace Dieu

Leicester Mercury 29th October 1971. A Mr C.I. Williams wrote an interesting article [see also Shepshed]. In it he states:

'The White Lady, this apparition has been seen on many occasions near the Grace Dieu ruins. A bus stopped to pick up a white coated lady near the ruins only to find on stopping she had disappeared.

'Yet again, this white lady has been seen moving about both among the ruins and the adjoining field. Yet another white lady has been described to me by Grace Surridge of Kegworth. She recounts a how the late Dr Bedford, who lived at The Hermitage, lived quite happily with a ghost for many years. This white lady mainly frequented the main landing and passageway over the staircase.

'A workman at the house, on one occasion fled back up the cellar steps having encountered her, describing her as a white lady or nun.

'Now the 'White Lady' is a widely known figure. In the early 15th century one known as Bertha of Rosenberg is mentioned in Bohemia. Other castles have them, while yet others dwell in mountains as enchanted maidens awaiting deliverance. The name Bertha could derive from an ancient nature goddess Berchta, meaning 'the brilliant one', who used her power on Twelfth Night. There may be no connection, although both our local White Ladies appear on ancient sites. There is an ancient standing stone in the field adjoining Grace Dieu ruins.'

The Hermitage is an ancient hermitage site. Another article in the *Mercury* notes that to see the White Lady of The Hermitage is said to be good luck, and also notes that local tradition says that 'a nun was murdered in the house'.

'According to [a] witness, on the bus one evening when one of the incidents occurred, the 'White Lady' was simply glowing, misty column of light, not a figure at all that floated off across the field.' (Devereux 1982: 208)

White Lady of Grace Dieu Priory (Bell 1992: 105–6; Potter in *Mercian Mysteries*; Janet Slattery in *The Lady*; Green 1985: 6–7; Draycott *et al* n.d.: 9)

Agnes Litherland [links to Ulverscroft] (Green 1985: 5–7; Pipe 1991: 45–9; Heywood 1934: 32–7; Palmer 2002: 233; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 12–13)

Also whole series of ghosts along A512. See Devereux and York 'The Forgotten Heart of Albion' Part 2 re fault line and associated earthquakes. Also unpublished research by Mr and Mrs Griffiths [sorry, only vague memories as did not take detailed notes].

Greetham white shape in churchyard (Palmer 2002: 223)

Hathern boy on a bike (Bell 1992: 40–1)

Heather

Churchyard said to be haunted.

Source: [Andy York] Janet Draycott to Andrew York

Hemington

The occupants of some new flats on Main Street, Hemington, have been driven out of their homes by loud inexplicable noises which have been disturbing their nights to a degree where they could no longer put up with it.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 2nd June 1973

Higham on the Hill haunted railway line (Bell 1992: 41–2)

Hinckley exorcism at Factory Road (Palmer 2002: 222)

Hinckley

Church haunted by ghostly footsteps which pace up and down the aisles in the grey hours of the morning. The ghost is believed to be that of a monk who met with a tragic end in the church when it was formerly a priory.

Source: [Andy York] *The midnight hearse* Elliott O'Donnell, p80 (hardback edn)

The ghost has been heard in the present century.

Source: [Andy York] *Haunted churches* Elliott O'Donnell, p59

Hinckley ghost at hall, later vicarage grounds (Palmer 2002: 236)

Stretton Baskerville (lost village near Hinckley).

The ghost is a figure wearing a coat of curious cut with lace sleeves and a three-cornered hat and appears in the lanes of this area where Dick Turpin was held up on his ride from London to York along Watling Street. There is said to be an iron-bound chest containing thousands of guineas buried here, after the Battle of Bosworth. There is also said to be a witch buried here.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Advertiser* 20th February 1926

'The ghost has a large tricorn hat and, unusually for a ghost seen in darkness, wears a coat with sleeves such a brilliant red that the colour is easily noted if there is some moonlight or car headlamps to illuminate the figure before it fades. Dick Turpin is the identification of the ghost.'

Source: [Andy York] *The ghost hunter's road book* John Harries, p104.

'The ghost was seen coming towards the car. It flashed past and faded into the distance. It wore coloured clothes and there was a look of cynical determination on its face.'

Source: [Andy York] *Illustrated Leicester Chronicle* 5th February 1927.

Hamilton haunted field (Palmer 2002: 231)

Hugglescote

The old church yard is said to be haunted.

Source: [Andy York] Janet Draycott to Andrew York.

Bloomer's ghost is thought to wander in the vicinity of Hugglestone Mill. Bloomer was the surname of a well-known local family.

Source: [Andy York] Draycott *et al* n.d.

Hugglescote ghost at Bloomer's mill (Draycott *et al* n.d.: 5)

Humberstone

The Moat Hotel suffers a ghost who delights in the movement of things and general horseplay.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 19th August 1972; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 12

Humberstone ghost of man at Frewin Street (Bell 1992: 116–9)

Humberstone choking feeling ('Old Hag'??) (Palmer 2002: 223–4)

Husbands Bosworth ghost of Lady Lisgar at Hall (Bell 1992: 48; Cutting 1982: 27; Palmer 2002: 227)

Husbands Bosworth another ghost at Bosworth Hall (Cutting 1982: 27)

Husbands Bosworth

There is a dark stain on the floor that is always damp. The stain is said to be blood, 300 years old, from when a secret Catholic mass in the chapel was interrupted by Cromwellians. The wine for the mass had been consecrated when the service was disturbed. In fleeing, the priest knocked the chalice of wine over, hence the blood stain.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 10th November 1966; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 12

Ilstock

On the Ilstock/Heather road there is a stile on the left hand side going out of Ilstock. The two witnesses were standing by the stile. It was 8.30 p.m. one October night in 1961 and the moon was on the wane.

A black figure appeared over the rise, coming toward them, and all of a sudden increased in height until it was very tall. Then it turned right and moved across the field very quickly until it was on top of the ridge, between two trees and disappeared. They could see it was pushing a wheelbarrow and they could see its legs moving and the spokes of the wheelbarrow moving round.

Exactly a month later, they saw it again. It did exactly the same, but this time came nearer to them (about six feet away at its nearest point) and seemed to be as tall as horse standing on its hind legs. The wheelbarrow as about the size of a bay window.

Other people have seen a white figure there.

Source: [Andy York] Mr and Mrs Spencer, 302 Hall Lane, Whitwick, verbally to Andrew York 28th September 1968

Ibstock

An old house (thought to be 73 Melbourne Road) is said to have a presence. Once, a door was seen to open and close. When someone was dying, a person felt a touch and heard something brush by a bed.

When the house was empty, around 1968, steps down and a tunnel, going in the direction of the church, were found. The tunnel was tall enough to walk down and in good condition, but it has since been concreted over at its entrance.

The house is at least 300 years old and Oliver Cromwell is reputed to have stayed there.

Source: [Andy York] Mr and Mrs Spencer, 302 Hall Lane, Whitwick, verbally to Andrew York 28th September 1968

Ibstock

The witness's mother had a mirror on a wall upstairs, she had bought it brand new about 1947. A boy was looking in it when he saw, reflected in it, behind him, a lady in grey who looked like a nurse. When he turned around there was no one there. He ran downstairs terrified.

Later, when it was being moved, the mirror broke and inside were found some pieces of old magazines (dated 1928) with a serial story about a grey lady who was a nurse.

Source: [Andy York] Mrs Spencer 302 Hall Lane, Whitwick, verbally to Andrew York 28th September 1968.

Ibstock A headless woman with her head beneath her arm seen in the neighbourhood of Melbourne Road crossroads.

Source: [Andy York] *Coalville Times* 3rd June 1966; Palmer 2002: 228

Ibstock A headless ghost is supposed to ride by Clap Gates on the way to Kelham Bridge. Supposed to be that of a local resident who fell from his horse and broke his neck while attempting to close the gate one dark night.

Source: [Andy York] *Coalville Times* 3rd June 1966; Palmer 2002: 228

Ibstock A woman is supposed to walk at Kelham Bridge, just outside Ibstock.

Source: [Andy York] Mrs Dooley, 43 Gosley Avenue, Hartshome.

Ibstock 'Thumby's ghost' was supposed to haunt the workings of Ibstock colliery up to the closing of the colliery, this century.

Source: [Andy York] *Coalville Times* 3rd June 1966

Ibstock Tumby's ghost in pit (Palmer 2002: 225)

Ingarsby

The ghost of a white lady is seen regularly in Wendigo Wood. Her sole purpose seems to be chasing interlopers from her wood. She was seen in October 1967.

Source: [Andy York] Richard Loveless verbally to Andrew York 4th January 1968

Kegworth

See also Grace Dieu.

Kegworth The Cedars had for many years been haunted by the ghost of a butler.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 29th October 1971

Kibworth Harcourt

The White House, some 250 years old, was haunted (no details).

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 4th February 1972

Kibworth ghost of miller (Palmer 2002: 231–2)

Kibworth house haunted c.1825 to 1875 (Palmer 2002: 236–7)

Kilby phantom horseman at Cooks Lane crossing, Kilby Bridge (Palmer 2002: 226)

The Langtons

The ghost of a white lady was seen 60 years ago opening a gate.

Source: [Andy York] Mrs Wood of Great Glen verbally to Andrew York December 1967.

Leicester

'The mysterious 'spook water' which appeared in a house in Bell Lane, Leicester, over 30 years ago is recalled in a book just published [*The restless ghost of Lady Playce and other true hauntings*, Foulsham ??1967].

'It was in August 1933, in the home of Mr and Mrs Samuel Long, that water began pouring down from the ceiling. Mr Long, 74, a retired barman, thought it must be due to a leak in the roof, though with no heavy rain having fallen for a week he was very puzzled.

'From then on there were a number of incidents, each more peculiar than the last. Water sprayed from a wall, cascaded down the stairs, it streamed down the walls of the living room, and a jet of water shot through the wallpaper and splashed onto the fire. Leicester detectives made a search of the house but were unable to solve the mystery.

'A photographer from the *Leicester Evening Mail* was in the house when he saw a jet of water emerge from the wall.

'During three weeks of observation by experts there was no sign of the water, but hardly had they left than a jet of water from the ceiling drenched Mr Long. Later a workman was hit in the face by a jet of water from a wall in the bedroom.

'Finally after some months, when the family were on the point of leaving the house, the shower'ing began to lessen and during the winter months it stopped all together.
Source: [Andy York] 'Spook water' in *Leicester Mercury* 23rd November 1967

Bell Lane inexplicable water (Cutting 1982: 18; Palmer 2002: 222; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 13)

Leicester The Newarkes. In a house whose kitchen was paved with gravestones (!!!) a woman in service in 1825-6 saw the ghost of an old woman in a red cloak. She was also seen by the master of the house at a different time.
Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mail* 19th June 1930.

Leicester 79 Dronfield Road (in 1963 the residence of a Mrs Butt) is haunted by the ghost of 'Old Josiah'.
Source: [Andy York] *Weekly News* 14th December 1963

Leicester There is a stone still on the green in front of the castle and it is supposed to be unlucky to sit on it. The person who supplied this information had a friend who sat on it and was dead within a few weeks.

Napier Reeve was mid-Victorian historian and his ghost was said to walk in the castle yard. He was frequently seen by the lady who lived in the timbered gateway house. In life he was fond of the castle yard and the lady who saw him knew him and was aware of his affection.
Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mail* 19th June 1930

Leicester ghost of John of Gaunt seen at Castle (Palmer 2002: 227)

Leicester In 1963 Michael, a close friend, died. The night after his funeral she [Alice Atkins] awoke to find a white light in her room. It looked like a Verry [??] light and was a big circle of light. It went through the window and disappeared. She was not frightened but felt it was Michael saying goodbye.

This event was not altogether unique, another old friend also came to say goodbye to her the night after his funeral, he hugged her and bade her farewell in a dream.

As a child she had experienced some precognition i.e. she recalled a minor instance where she dreamed of her mother returning a library book she was particularly enjoying before she had finished reading it and, surely enough, the said thing happened.

Source: [Andy York] Alice Atkins, resident of Leicester (no address given) to Janet Bord October 1968.

Leicester Past the British Shoe Corporation factory on Braunstone Lane there are woods on both sides of the road. In them is a derelict farmhouse which is said to be haunted.
Source: [Andy York] Verbally to Andrew York from someone who worked near the place.

Leicester Evington Valley Road, when Mrs Rastall was about six, she saw her aunt sitting in a chair, though she knew her aunt to be on the other side of town. The aunt was not in good health at the time. She told her mother but when they went back into the room there was no one there..

This was not Mrs Rastall's only experience of the supernatural. During the winter of 1926/7 she was working in Court Chambers, (?26) Friar Lane, Leicester. About 6.45 p.m. she and another girl were alone in the building. They heard something upstairs, footsteps walking around, then coming downstairs, slowly. They sounded as if the person had heavy boots or a wooden leg. They were regular and definitely coming downstairs. The two girls ran outside.

When they told their workmates the next day the typists who worked upstairs said they had all heard strange noises and seen doors open for no reason.

A man was said to have hanged himself in the building immediately prior to these hauntings.

Source: [Andy York] Mrs K.M. Rastall who lived at 146 Spencefield Lane, Leicester in 1968.

Leicester An old man, when a boy, was followed, often at night, by footsteps that usually began about the middle of Friar Lane and always ended in front of St Mary's church. Only on one occasion did he see anything and that was one midsummer's eve. He was going along the lane when he suddenly saw, moving along by his side, and clearly outlined on the ground, the shadow of a headless man with something like a hump on his back. The shadow kept pace with him till he came to St Mary's church when it left him and he watched it go right up to the main entrance and there disappear.

Note: Friar Lane is now split in two by a dual carriageway which was built across it.

Source: [Andy York] *Haunted churches* Elliott O'Donnell, p61

Leicester Fairfax Street (formerly Cut Throat Lane). In front of the houses at the Mill Lane end of the street a man cut his wife's throat in the mid-19th century. The evil influence remained and a few years later another man committed a similar crime there.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mail* 19th June 1930

Leicester High Cross Priory, New Walk. The ghost of a former prior has been repeatedly seen by members of the little Dominican priory and worshippers in the church.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicestershire and Rutland lore* S. Jackson Coleman 1955

Leicester A house in Knighton (no address given) was subject to poltergeist activity at a time when there was an adolescent girl living there. Ghosts have been seen there, of a child and also of a monstrous thing.

One man who lived there ended up in The Towers (Leicester's most infamous asylum).

Source: [Andy York] a local girl to Andrew York.

Leicester A ghost used to haunt a house in Sanvey Gate.

Source: [Andy York] *Haunted churches* Elliott O'Donnell p61

Leicester About 1800 the bells of St Martin's (now the cathedral) were seen and heard to start ringing of their own accord.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mail* 19th June 1930 and in *Haunted churches* by Elliotgt O'Donnell.

Leicester A monk is said to walk along the passageway leading from the Guildhall/Chapter House to St Martin's.

Source: [Andy York] Mrs K.M. Rastall to Andrew York, based on information given to her verbally by Elliott O'Donnell.

Leicester St Martin's churchyard was haunted by a hooded figure that used to be seen, on certain nights of the year, gliding about and kneeling, with one ear to the ground in the attitude of listening. If it reached out one of its long arms and touched anyone, it was a sure sign that the person would shortly die.

Source: [Andy York] *Haunted churches* Elliott O'Donnell p60

Leicester 61 Tudor Road is haunted.

Source: [Andy York] Alfred Mills to Andrew York.

Leicester At 4 Sherwood Street, Leicester, a ghost appears in human form in the hall of the house very regularly indeed and is described by the residents as 'part of the family'.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 29th October 1965

Leicester A ghost which was very famous in the last century took the form of an old lady in a red coat who used to regularly appear in a house in the Newarques.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 20th September 1968

Leicester 'Ever since the Freewheeler Club in Churchgate was opened in April a ghost dressed in late 19th century clothing has been appearing. Roger Harris, barman, said: 'The first time I saw the ghost I was frightened out of my life. There was an old man wearing a long frock coat with a cravat and cravat pin, with both hands resting on a walking stick. He had a beard and what looked like an evil expression on his face, but I now think it was perhaps a mischievous look.'

Mr Harris says that the 'old man' has appeared several times, in the upstairs part of the building. He also claims to have seen the ghost in the form of a little girl, in the downstairs area of the club.

The premises were built at the end of the 19th century and are said to have once been used as a mortuary.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 17th June 1972; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 12

The club has now been exorcised.

Source: [Andy York] Andrew York's notes; no further identification.

Leicester In 1965 several people reported a headless figure drifting up the road in West Street, Leicester.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 20th September 1968; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 12.

Leicester A couple living in a flat on New Walk were being disturbed by the recurring apparition of a little old man with a beard.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 13th January 1969

Leicester ghostly piano music (London Road) (Bell 1992: 51–2); same account but located in Belvoir Street (Palmer 2002: 224)

Leicester ghost at police station Asfordby Street (Bell 1992: 52–3)

Leicester ghost of Agnes Clarke at Blue Boar Inn (Bell 1992: 53–5; Cutting 1982: 7; Green 1971: 24–27; Pipe 1991: 124–7; Palmer 2002: 233–4)

Leicester ghosts at Haymarket Theatre (Bell 1992: 55–6; Cutting 1982: 9–10; Palmer 2002: 225)

Leicester ghost at Palace Theatre Belgrave Gate (Palmer 2002: 225)

Leicester haunted pub in Churchgate (Cutting 1982: 8–9; Palmer 2002: 223)

Leicester haunted disco in Churchgate (Cutting 1982: 14)

Leicester footsteps in Friar Lane (Cutting 1982: 12–13; Palmer 2002: 223)

Leicester figure in Guildhall Lane (Cutting 1982: 13)

Leicester haunted pub in King Richards Road (Cutting 1982: 14)

Leicester Centre Hotel, Humberstone Gate (Cutting 1982: 14)

Leicester 'time shift' Canal Street (Cutting 1982: 17)

Leicester Oak Street (Cutting 1982: 18)

Leicester ghost at Brandon Street (Cutting 1982: 18–19)

Leicester King Street (Cutting 1982: 19)

Leicester Abbey Park ghost (Cutting 1982: 20)

Leicester Evington Road figure by road (Cutting 1982: 21; Palmer 2002: 227)

Leicester ghost at St Martin's (Cutting 1982: 22–3; Palmer 2002: 225)

Leicester ghost near St Martin's (Palmer 2002: 231)

Leicester ghost of Blackfriars Hall, New Walk (formerly Holy Cross Church) (Cutting 1982: 23)

Leicester ghost in New Walk flat (Cutting 1982: 25)

Leicester sound of music from former Goldsmith Music Library (Cutting 1982: 24–5)

Leicester Castle and Castle Green ghosts (Cutting 1982: 28)

Leicester Abbey Lane bakery ghost (Cutting 1982: 30; Palmer 2002: 225)

Leicester ghost in new building Wellington Street (Cutting 1982: 30)

Leicester poltergeist at vicarage of St Margaret's; transferred to church when vicarage demolished in early 1960s (Palmer 2002: 222)

Leicester St Nicholas church haunted (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 12)

Leicester 'silky liquid' and exorcism at Netherhall 1991 (Palmer 2002: 222)

Leicester exorcism Uppingham Road (Palmer 2002: 223)

Leicester ghost at Barkby Lane (now Bedford Street) (Palmer 2002: 225)

Leicester ghost of wife of draper, near East Gates c.1727 (Palmer 2002: 231)

Leicester inexplicable noises etc at Barge Pole Restaurant, Bowling Green Street in 1981 (Palmer 2002: 231)

Loddington

The Youth Hostel has a staircase which, if one walks up it alone, has a very real effect of someone following one up.

Source: [Andy York] Eric Cook, in a letter to Andrew York 22nd September 1968.

Loddington Loddington Mill is said to be haunted.

Source: [Andy York] Mr Rastall verbally to Andrew York November 1968.

Loughborough ghost at Fisons (Palmer 2002: 225)

Loughborough ghost of suicide at The Volunteer (Palmer 2002: 233)

Loughborough

After midnight a stage coach was seen going down High Street, past the Bull's Head, down Swan Street and through The Rushes. It had eight galloping horses, there were figures on the box and the coach was red, blue and yellow, with 'William Chaplain' in yellow letters on the side. The horses were changed at the Bull's Head.

This case was investigated and the writer found that such a coach as described by the man who saw it, had existed in 1859.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 30th March 1928.

In 1928, in Palmer Avenue, crockery and windows were smashed at night and weird creakings and strange footsteps were heard. It was thought it might be the ghost of the late Dr Palmer who had lived on the estate.

Source: [Andy York] *Illustrated Leicester Chronicle* 3rd August 1929

Lubenham

Papillon Hall. Until the last war a pair of ladies shoes were kept in a grating over the mantel shelf in a room in paillon Hall, Lubenham. They had been there about 300 years. It was believed that to remove them would bring dire misfortune to some member of the family owning the house. Only on one occasion had they been removed when Captain Belville, father of the present owner, sent them to an exhibition. As a result of this act he met with such a succession of incidents that he had the shoes restored to their home at once.

According to tradition a Madame Papillon was murdered by her husband in the Hall 300 years ago. With a dying breath she said she would ever afterwards haunt the house. The carefully preserved shoes are believed to be hers.

Source: [Andy York] *Haunted Britain* Elliott O'Donnell citing *Sphere* 26th December 1946; Palmer 2002: 234–6; Lloyd 1977; Drayton 1992; Stevens-Bassett 19*****)

Lubenham A ghostly 'four in hand' is said to gallop along the main road from Papillon hall to Lubenham village.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* August 1965

Lubenham On 25th August 1965 a Lubenham taxi driver reported that the night before he had twice seen a figure in white in between the village inn and Rushes Lane, as he drove past. In the end he stopped his car and got out to investigate. The figure moved off but he gave chase and as he did so he said it simply disappeared.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* [?? 25th August 1965]

Luffenham

An apparition of a man, said to be Everard Digby, a conspirator in the gunpowder plot who used to meet Guy Fawkes at North Luffenham Hall.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 10th November 1966; Palmer 2002: 228

[See similar (and inaccurate) tale for Tilton.]

Manton ghostly coach and horses seen 1973 (Palmer 2002: 228)

Manton servant girl strangled at Manton Old Hall; strange noises sometimes heard (Palmer 2002: 234)

Market Bosworth ghost at Bosworth Hall (Bell 1992: 64–5)

Market Bosworth battlefield ghosts (Cutting 1982: 31) [cf. Cadeby above]

Market Harborough ghosts at a council house (19 The Broadway) (Bell 1992: 66–8; Palmer 2002: 237)

Market Harborough ghost at Harborough Theatre (Bell 1992: 69–70)

Market Harborough ghost of child at 33 Scotland Road (Bell 1992: 70–2)

Market Harborough ghost at Golden Wonder offices (Palmer 2002: 225)

Measham ghost on bike (Bell 1992: 73–4)

Measham ghost by canal (Bell 1992: 74–6)

Melton Mowbray haunted butcher's shop (Bell 1992: 76–7)

Melton Mowbray ghost at Sysonby Lodge (Bell 1992: 77–80; *Mercian Mysteries* *****)

Melton Mowbray ghosts at Framland House (Bell 1992: 80–1)

Melton Mowbray ghost of girl, Scalford Road (Bell 1992: 81)

Markfield

A number of people saw a grey ghostly figure in Markfield one night in 1918. The figure was first seen gliding through Markfield cemetery and was later seen gliding over the road from the cemetery, when it was described as a grey ghostly woman.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 21st December 1967; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 12

Market Bosworth

Market Bosworth Hall, now the hospital. The young daughter of the owner, Jane, used to secretly meet the gardener boy, years ago (probably centuries ago). He used to have to cross a bridge. Jane's father found out and did not approve and made the bridge unsafe. One night the boy was late, Jane crossed the bridge which collapsed and she drowned. Her room is said to be haunted.

The room is over the entrance hall, on the ceiling of which is the shape of a female-sized hand, which appears grey against the white ceiling. Nothing can get rid of it. Those who have seen it included Rosemary Wilson and she says it is very frightening.

Source: [Andy York] Rosemary Wilson verbally to Andrew York 14th September 1968.

Market Bosworth A white garmented figure is said to hover near the Ashby road.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Chronicle* 10th January 1969

Misterton

In the churchyard stands a tree under which every now and then a bloody footprint appears.

A pedlar is said to have been murdered under the tree. The footprint, swimming with blood, is said to appear on the anniversary of the murder. The pedlar is said to have foretold his own death.

Source: [Andy York] *Haunted churches* Elliott O'Donnell

The tree is said to be a yew tree. *Trees of ghostly dead* Elliott O'Donnell

Moir

A girl whose father had died was reading about resurrection in the Bible. She looked up and saw her father standing in front of her.

Source: [Andy York] Jennifer Illsley, from a girl. Reported to Andrew York, November 1968.

Morcott Duel at Morcott Hall (now boarding school) associated with ghost of Lady Betty (Palmer 2002: 236)

Mountsorrel ghostly smell of pipe tobacco (L'boro Road) (Bell 1992: 83)

Nanpantan

'My mother had been an invalid for a number of years and was accommodated in a downstairs room. It was evident that she was dying; my father had died some nine months earlier. About midnight there was a loud knocking on the front door and the dog barked furiously. I opened the door but no one was there. When I returned to my mother's room she had passed away. It was almost as though my father had returned to fetch her.

Source: [Andy York] Letter from Mr W. Deakin, Mullions, Nanpantan, published in *Loughborough Echo* [A. York gives no date].

Narborough

An old lady was seen to emerge from a wall of Narborough Hall in the 1950s, cross the Leicester road and pass through a hedge at Judd's Cottage (since demolished). She wore a cross-over shawl which she clutched close to her bosom.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Chronicle* 10th January 1966

Narborough Narborough Hall is haunted by a ghost whose form is that of an old lady.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 10th January 1969; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 12

Narborough Photographs taken in the vicinity of St John's church revealed a strange white something.

Source: [Andy York] David Arnyll verbally to Andrew York.

Newbold Verdon invisible presence (Palmer 2002: 224–5)

Newton Burgoland 5 to 4 Fred (Bell 1992: 84–5; Cutting 1982: 15; Green 1985:16–18; *Leicester Mercury* 8/8/92; Palmer 2002: 223; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 12)

A very active ghost is noted at the Belper Inn, Newton Burgoland. The ghost apparently not only takes pleasure in moving lots of things about, but has been known, when the pub is full, to half suffocate one of the patrons, and to pinch and caress several lady customers.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 18th July 1972.

Newton Burgoland Another terrifying ghost, about which the article gives few details, appeared as a series of terrifying apparitions and disturbing events at the Britella factory, Frog Island.. Things got so bad that the factory was exorcised by the Archdeacon of Loughborough

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 22nd January 1973; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 12

Oadby

The manor house (now the library and urban offices) is said to be haunted by a grey lady.

Source: [Andy York] Mr Rastall, 146 Spencefield Lane, Leicester to Andrew York.

Oaks in Charnwood (Mount St Bernard's Abbey) ghost of Brother Finbar Holland (Bell 1992: 88–9; Cutting 1982: 29; Draycott *et al* n.d.: 10)

In 1935 a Mr Woods, a retired gardener and groom, of 95 Waterworks Road, Coalville, was leading two horses past the monastery gates at about 4 p.m.. He saw what looked like a monk in a white tunic, with the hood up, quickly float up on to a six foot high wall and go along the wall for about 12 yards. While this went on the horses bolted and he saw the figure float down the other side of the wall.

It took him about ten minutes to calm the horses, which were trembling. They had to pass the spot where the ghost had appeared to continue home. The horses had to be much coaxed to go near it, showing much reluctance.

The top of the wall was mainly of loose stones, but apart from the noise of the man and the horses, the incident took place without a sound.

In a field next to this spot was a small hut where the monks pumped their water. Apparently, a monk had been found dead in there some months earlier.
Source: [Andy York] Draycott *et al* n.d.

Pickworth ghost of Dick Turpin (Palmer 2002: 227)

Preston Headless man on horseback jumps hedge near where windmill used to be; known as Ghost Hollow (Palmer 2002: 228).

Ravenstone

The Grange, Standard Hill, is approached from the bottom of Standard Hill along a track. About half a mile from the mainroad is a stream running under the track. At this spot, hundreds of years ago, the butler from The Grange murdered the maid. He beheaded her and pushed her in the stream. Both are seen fairly often walking together at the bridge (she has her head under her arm). Noises are also heard and dogs disturbed.

Source: [Andy York] Janet Draycott to Andrew York.

Rothley

The Woodman's Stroke, the old village inn in Rothley, is haunted by a ghost whose form is that of a man. The landlady described him as 'a big fellow, very tall with gaunt features.' He is friendly and is known to all the locals as Gregory. To see him is said to be good luck and to bring comfort and peace. Apparently parts of the pub are 16th century and he inhabits these older parts, often banging and making noises.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 23rd June 1972

Rothley ghost at The Woodman's Stroke (Bell 1992: 89–90; Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 12)

Rothley ghost at GCR station (Bell 1992: 90–1; Palmer 2002: 233))

Ryhall bloodstains and ghost at Church Farm (Palmer 2002: 227)

Saddington Headless woman, known as Anna, haunts Saddington Tunnel on Grand Union (Palmer 2002: 228)

Sapcote presence at Scholar's Bridge towards Stoney Stanton (Palmer 2002: 226)

Seagrave ghost outside Quebec Farm (Palmer 2002: 226)

Shangton

Early in 1967, at 10.45 p.m., three shapes were seen by a woman in a car. They were round and slightly pointed at the top with a definite outline. They were filled with swirling mist and were in a hedge opposite the church.

Each was beside the other and slightly above it but they were not joined. An alsation dog was petrified.

The informant and her mother saw them on another occasion. About 10.15 they were in the trees, quite high above ground, outside the manor house and floated off in the direction of the fields.

There is said to be an underground passage from the church to the manor.

The informant said that these things had been seen before and by many and were held to be the ghosts of monks.

Source: [Andy York] Mrs Wood of Great Geln verbally to Andrew York.

Shepshed

Leicester Mercury 29th October 1971. A Mr C.I. Williams wrote an interesting article [see also Grace Dieu].

'There was once an old man who lived in Hathern. Almost every night he walked to his favourite inn in Shepshed where he entertained the house on his pipe. At the close of each evening he wandered home, playing his pipe, by a path through the wood to his house. One night he left the inn, but never arrived home. Although searches were made he was never found.

'But many persons, even strangers, for years after asked who it was they heard playing a strange tune on a pipe in the wood. So persistent were the accounts that the wood soon became known as The Pipers Wood. The M1 has torn its way through the wood now and only sorry remnants are left.'

Legend apart, an ancient Roman road is suspected to run between Piper Wood and Oakley Wood (a ley?). Some early shards of pottery have been found. The ancient god Pan played his pipe as he tripped through the woodlands. Could there be a reference here to an ancient shrine site?

Sibson

A highwayman is said to be seen near the Cock Inn.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Chronicle* 10th January 1969.

Skeffington

A room at the Hall is said to be haunted by a ghost who taps on the door.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicestershire and Rutland lore* S. Jackson Coleman 1955

Skeffington Skeffington Mansion House is haunted in broad daylight by a ghost, a woman who walks down the drive of the house.

Source: [Andy York] Letter from David Shelton to Andrew York.

Skeffington haunting associated with duel at Skeffington Hall (Palmer 2002: 236)

Snarestone

The Laurels is said to be haunted by the ghost of a girl who was murdered under an oak tree there. She was murdered by her lover for refusing to tell him about the location of a treasure that legend says is hidden there.

The girl is said to have appeared in the study of the house, pointing a finger.

People in the village claim to have seen the ghost and blurs are seen passing by the windows, especially at night; lights also go on and off.

Source: [Andy York] Jennifer Illsley from a local girl. Reported to Andrew York.

Snarestone A house is haunted by a queer goblin-like figure. A murder is said to have occurred in an adjacent field.

Source: [Andy York] Rosemary Wilson of Bracknell to Andrew York.

Staunton Harold

The ruins of the old seat of the Ferrers family are said to be haunted by the ghost of a steward killed by Earl Ferrers in 1760.

Source: [Andy York] *Illustrated Leicester Chronicle* 3rd August 1929

[Earl Ferrers, bearer of the Shirley arms, shot his steward, Johnson, after an argument. Four months later the Earl was executed at Tyburn for the murder.]

A Dr Kirland and his friend were riding along Ashby Road when they saw a full and magnificent funeral procession sweep by, with the Shirley coat of arms on the carriages. Dr Kirkland noted the time as 4 p.m. on Friday January 18th (no year given). At that precise time, the Doctor later learned, the Earl of Ferrers ...

Source: [Andy York] Andrew York's notes; fragment of report of *Leicester Mercury* article dated 10th January 1969.

This ghost was seen to come outside through the main door and vanish in some bushes by a group of people including a member of the Illsley family. It was seen more than once. This was a good few years ago.

Source: [Andy York] Illsley family to Andrew York.

Staunton Harold A most peculiar phenomenon on the A428. If ever you drive down there watch out, the report states that numerous motorists have been terrified by a phantom lorry when looking in their rear-view mirror. The lorry bears down on the vehicle in front at absolute break-neck speed and then simply passes through the vehicle with which it seemed it would unavoidably collide. Eye witnesses on the roadside claim to have seen the lorry rushing along at speed and pass through a whole line of traffic.

Source: [Andy York] Andrew York's notes; source of report lost.

Stoke Golding ghost of gypsy girl (Bell 1992: 95–6)

Stretton ghost of Stocken Hall (Bell 1992: 98–9)

Sutton Cheney

Galloping horsemen and a headless soldier are said to haunt lanes to the west of the A447 between Market Bosworth and Hinckley. The soldier is said to have bare legs and a close-fitting helmet.

Source: [Andy York] *The ghost hunter's road book* John Harries p103/4

Sweepstone

Mrs Rosemary Wilson says of her grandfather:

'He was walking from Sweepstone to Newton at night and saw a figure coming towards him. At first thought he knew the lady as she came from the direction of a cottage. On seeing her at closer distance he was struck by her beauty and referred to her afterwards as the most beautiful lady he had ever seen. As she came close enough for him to speak she disappeared completely. He was not afraid!'

Source: [Andy York] Mrs Rosemary Wilson of Bracknell to Andrew York.

Swithland

The ghost of a woman, the 'grey lady', was seen twenty years ago (ie.e 1905-ish) at Swithland old vicarage. It has now been seen again, soon after dusk. She came from the ruins of the old vicarage towards the church, head bowed and carrying in her hand what appeared to have been a small slab of stone. She has also been seen walking in the churchyard.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 20th November 1925

Swithland grey lady (Bell 1992: 99–100; Cutting 1982: 11; Green 1971:14–16; Heywood 1934: 51–4; Palmer 2002: 234 [N.B. Palmer links together the murder, the rectory haunting and the grey lady])

Swithland The vicarage/rectory is also said to be haunted.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 20th November 1925; Palmer 2002: 234

Swithland A butler called Parker rose considerably above his station by murdering a young lady of the area 150 years ago. Parker cut his throat in recrimination. The two are occasionally to be seen, the butler bleeding from the throat and emitting hoarse cries of anguish, the lady dressed in grey brocade. Rarely seen recently.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Chronicle* 10th January 1969; Palmer 2002: 234

Syston haunted police station (Bell 1992: 101–3)

Teigh woman with head under her arm walks Teigh Hill (Palmer 2002: 228)

Thistleton ghostly coach and horses (Palmer 2002: 228)

Thornton vicarage exorcised by vicar (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 12)

Thorpe Arnold

Beginning in 1929 a shapeless white thing with fiery red eyes floated about during winter evenings. People who went after it, to solve the mystery, ran away in terror. It also left footprints in the field, 15 to 20 yards apart. But it was absent the following summer.

Source: [Andy York] *Illustrated Leicester Chronicle* 3rd August 1929

Thorpe Satchville ghost of train (Bell 1992: 103–4)

Thringstone

The Drum and Monley pub on the A512 Loughborough/Ashby road is said to be haunted by the ghost of a victim of a murder committed there.

Source: [Andy York] *Coalville Times* 3rd June 1966

Thringstone see also Grace Dieu

Thringstone haunted community centre (Bell 1992: 106–7)

Thurmaston footsteps and inexplicable fire (Bell 1992: 108)

Thurmaston food factory ghost (Cutting 1982: 30)

Thurmaston At Allen's Lodge a man shot a soldier who now haunts the house. After the crime a button from a militia coat and human bones were found in a well.
Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mail* 22ns August 1930.

Tilton on the Hill

Sir Everard Digby, one of the gunpowder plotters, is said to haunt Tilton Manor House. Strange rappings are heard, doorlatches lifted, footsteps heard and crockery thrown. A protestant vicar tried to lay the ghost but was unsuccessful. The gunpowder plot was said to have been hatched at the house.
Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 13th April 1925 and *Leicester Advertiser* 25th April 1925.

The ghost also lights fires. It was still present in 1928.
Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mail* 13th October 1928.

Conventional accounts of the gunpowder plot give no mention of Sir Everard Digby, nor any suggestion that Tilton Manor was its birthplace.
Source: [Andy York] Janet Bord to Andrew York.

Hall haunted (Devereux and York 1975 [POAFA pt2]: 12)

Tilton on the Hill A coach and six, driven by a headless coachman and carrying another headless man, attired in rich garments, is seen on moonlit nights. It dashes past the spectator and disappears.
Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mail* 10th July 1930; also Palmer 2002: 227–8 who links to Digby

Tilton on the Hill Many people had met a sudden and awful end in Dunn's house and peals of unearthly laughter have been heard there.
Source: [Andy York] *Leicester mail* 10th July 1930

Tilton on the Hill A visitor to the church was coming from the vestry in broad daylight. 'I looked back at the church to see a monk in a black cloak pass from the south porch, walk along the south aisle and enter the pulpit, where he vanished.' A parish priest was murdered here in the 14th century.
Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Chronicle* 10th January 1969

Ulverscroft

A ghost haunted the area of Chitterman.

Suggested it might be the ghost of John of Oxley, whose poaching brought him to a tragic end at Lubcloud.
Source: [Andy York] *Coalville Times* 3rd June 1966

Uppingham haunted bookshop on High Street East (Bell 1992: 110–13)

Waltham on the Wolds figure in road (Bell 1992: 113–4)

Waltham on the Wolds

The Royal Horseshoes, a 15th century inn, is said to be haunted by the ghost of a woman who died there in mysterious circumstances hundreds of years ago.
Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Advertiser* 2nd February 1968

Wanlip ghost of black boy (Bell 1992: 114–16)

Weston by Welland [not Leics??]

The Wheel and Compass pub is haunted by a very noisy ghost who bangs about for months on end. Said locally to be the ghost of an Irish navvy.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mercury* 20th September 1968

Whitwick ghost of Lady Aspin at Gun Hill (Bell 1992: 119–20; Draycott *et al* n.d.: 2; 19–20; Heywood 1934: 17–21; Palmer 2002: 233))

Lady Aspin's route is said to be along the lane from the forest via the foot of the Dumps and Mary's House.

Source: [Andy York] *Coalville Times* 3rd June 1966

Whitwick ghost in woolshop, Vicarage Street (Bell 1992: 121–2)

Whitwick 'ghost' at Whitwick Pit (Draycott *et al* n.d.: 3)

Whitwick ghost at The Corner Pin (Draycott *et al* n.d.: 4)

Whitwick ghost at The Drum and Monkey (Draycott *et al* n.d.: 20; Palmer 2002: 234)

Whitwick Gun Hill is a lonely rocky hill about a quarter of a mile from the road and a mile from Whitwick which is said to be haunted by the ghost of Lady Aspin (of Lady Aspin's pool fame).

Source: [Andy York] *Coalville Times* 29th July 1960 and Susan Green's books.

Wigston ghosts of ancient battle, Heards Close (Bell 1992: 122–3; Palmer 2002: 238)

Willesley ghost at lake (Draycott *et al* n.d.: 6)

Willesley Lake

The ghostly figure of a woman is said to haunt Willesley Lake.

Source: [Andy York] Draycott *et al* n.d.

Recently, a man fishing late at Willesley Lake saw a white hand rise from the water. It seemed to drift across his line of vision. He was badly frightened and left the place immediately.

Source: [Andy York] John Barstead of 6 Saintbury Road, Glenfield, to Andrew York.

Willoughby Waterless

At the beginning of this century ghostly nocturnal footsteps were reported in the unused attics of The Limes, a three-storey house of Tudor/Queen Anne vintage.

Source: [Andy York] Mr Rastall, 146 Spencefield Lane, Leicester to Andrew York.

During the 18th century at the hall, which is apart from the village, the music master had an unsuccessful love affair. He shot himself and now haunts the hall.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Mail* 7th August 1930

Wistow

A shadowy horse and carriage have been seen to enter the Hall carriageway in late autumn.

Source: [Andy York] *Leicester Chronicle* 10th January 1969

Wymondham figure in road (1948) (Palmer 2002: 226)

Wymondham Platts Stile towards Edmonthorpe haunted (Palmer 2002: 236)

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